



News Notes

OU classes available — The University of Oklahoma is proud to offer a Master of Arts in Managerial Economics. The Non-thesis program can be completed in about 18 months. The one week classes are also very TDY/TAD friendly. Contact OU at 449-6364 or aphickam@ou.edu for more information, or visit our Web site at www.gouu.ou.edu.

Notice of Power Outage — Buildings 968, 988, 989, 1028, 1072, and 1073 will experience a power outage Sept. 10 between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. The 10-hour outage is for electrical underground improvements and transformer relocation. If you have any questions please contact Ross McGerty of Hunt Building Corporation at 864-8072, Lance Durfee of Jacobs at 422-7337, or Linda Miller of 15 CONS/LGCA at 448-0542.

Info Quest 2005 — PACAF libraries are hosting Info Quest 2005. Sign up and get started today. For more information call the Base Library at 449-8299 or check the library's Web site <http://www2.hickam.af.mil/library>.

Wayland Baptist University — Wayland Baptist University offers Associate, Bachelor and Master's Degrees in a variety of programs. Registration for the Fall Micro Term is going on right now and Fall II, Fall III and Fall IV registration started Aug. 29. The classes are offered in two and a half week, five week or ten week sessions. For information,

See NOTES, A8

In this week's Kukini



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101 Critical Days of Summer

Getting the job done
 Yesterday may never have been, and tomorrow may never come, if not for today's safe practices, in getting each job done.

Bellows makes history

By Kirsten Tacker
 Kukini Photojournalist

Six Air Force members from Bellow's Det. 1, 15th Mission Support Group will be deployed as a team for the first time in its history.

It was an ohana farewell party for the deploying Airmen who were presented with leis, the spirit of Aloha, gifts, words of sen-

timent and laughter that rippled through every moment.

Their commander, Capt. David Talafuse, offered each Airman an American flag to plant with pride when they arrive at their destination.

"A lot of people here are giving of themselves and giving of their time to be out here to say goodbye to these folks," announced

Captain Talafuse. "This will be the first group ever tasked as a unit from Bellows to go fight the war. Okay, that's a big deal. That's why we are here."

For many this is their first time deploying.

Susan Espensen is the wife of deploying Senior Airman Jeffrey Espensen and they have experienced separation a couple of

times before, but this is their first deployment and they are newlyweds who will miss their first anniversary together.

"My best friend is going away. I mean he is my best friend, and it's so hard, but I have a strong faith in God. I pray about it and know that God is taking care of him, but I stay

See BELLOWS, A10

Ouch!



Photo by Mark Bates

A contractor's truck rests next to a car it ran into at the front gate Monday morning. No one was seriously hurt in the accident, but the incident slowed traffic at the gate for a couple hours as investigator collected details. As the 101 critical days of summer draws to an end and the four-day weekend arrives all motorists are asked to be vigilant. Take all precautions necessary and plan out trips. As required by Air Force regulation always wear a seatbelt.

From start to finish, Hickam officer involved in WWII

By Steve Diamond
 15th Airlift Wing History office

Today commemorates the end of World War II, as the date when Japan's General Umezu signed the instrument of surrender in the presence of General MacArthur and Admiral Nimitz aboard the USS Missouri anchored in Tokyo Bay. The years of the Pacific War were finally over.

Few Air Corps officers could say they participated in the Pacific War from its violent start with the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Oahu to the solemn Japanese surrender on Sept. 2, 1945. However, the late Lieutenant General Gordon Blake did just that, as part of his remarkable Air Force career.

Dec. 7, 1941, then-Captain Blake was the base operations officer at Hickam Field. Expecting a flight of new B-17s due from the mainland, Blake had been on duty since 7



Photo Courtesy of 15th Airlift Wing History office

Col. Gordon Blake in jeep parked in front of the Atsugi Operations Building, Japan. The quickly-converted airfield near Tokyo was the initial landing point for American occupation troops in September 1945.

a.m. Around 8 a.m., the B-17s began their approach to Hickam Field, just as the first wave of Japanese aircraft attacked. From the control tower, Capt. Blake

re-directed as many bombers as he could to other parts of the island, saving all but one B-17 that

See OFFICER, A9

Hickam, Hawaii's waters are safe with stringent testing

By Kirsten Tacker
 Kukini Photojournalist

Hawaii's bacteria standard for water quality is one of the strictest in the nation.

Hawaii is the only state that looks for a secondary indicator of bad bacteria because our primary indicator bacteria is found naturally reproducing all over the place in our tropical environment. The Environmental Protection Agency does not recognize the secondary indicator test, but they permit its use.

On Hickam, the Bioenvironmental Engineering Office follows Air Force Instruction 48-14, which states all Air Force facilities must comply with applicable state or local standards if they are more stringent.

The Air Force Occupational Safety and Health Standard 48-14 describes how the Air Force will operate and maintain swimming pools, public spas and hot tubs, and other bathing areas under its jurisdiction.

The AFI dictates Hickam only needs to test their beaches periodically. "Our regulations state periodic testing and it doesn't dictate as to how often," said Tech. Sgt. Mike Watson NCOIC of Bioenvironmental Engineering. The office tests Honeymoon and Hickam Beach at least once a year.

"Last time we did water testing was August 2004, but nothing came up as a concern," said Staff Sgt. Linda Grunwald, NCOIC

See BEACHES, A3

A tribute to the American worker

By Col.
Bill “Goose” Changose
15th Airlift Wing commander

Monday we observe Labor Day, a day set aside each year to celebrate the social and economic achievements of American workers. One need only look around the base to see examples of just how phenomenal our civilian workforce is. Approximately 35% of Team Hickam is made up of civilians. They work in every area of the base. They provide the know-how, the continuity, and the experience to keep our military the best in the world.

Have fun and relax during this long weekend but remember to keep an eye on safety. We had a vehicle accident Monday at the front gate that should serve as a reminder to all of us that even within the confines of Hickam inattention can lead to bad results. I don't want to get any phone calls this weekend finding out a Sky Warrior got hurt or even worse. The 101 critical days of summer come to an end this weekend, but we can't allow ourselves to let down our guard. As always, if you see someone doing something that will probably end up bad... speak up, be a good wingman.

As we approach the end of summer it's appropriate that we recognize the 15th Civil Engineering Squadron's



Photo by Angela L. Elbern

Col. Bill “Goose” Changose, 15th Airlift Wing commander, gives a “5” to Daniel Wyman, 10, son of Chief Master Sgt. Bob Wyman, 692nd Intelligence Group, after the Hickam motorcycle ride around Oahu Tuesday. The colonel, who also rides, gave some closing

Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration flight, for their hard work. Their “can do” attitude helps us stay cool during the summer and their operations touch every mission and everyone on Hickam. When you see them let them know they are doing a top notch Sky Warrior job. Speaking of top notch, a

big “Thank you” goes out to the 15th Airlift Wing Public Affairs and Protocol offices for their outstanding work on the Honorary Commander’s Assumption of Command Ceremony. Forty six local civic leaders paired up with Team Hickam units in an effort to help the civic leaders learn more about the base and the Air Force. After the

remarks even though he was not able to ride along. More than 80 motorcycle riders joined the 15th Safety Office to make it a successful event that riders can have fun and enjoy a cruise while still wearing all the required safety gear.

ceremony most of the honorary commanders took a tour of their squadrons. I received several notes of appreciation from our community leaders, they are constantly amazed at what incredible things you do day in and day out.

Tuesday the 15th Airlift Wing Safety office put together a motorcycle ride

around Oahu that gave riders a chance to have a little fun and show that you can enjoy motorcycle riding and still be safe. Even though I was not able to ride along, the event was a big success with more than 80 riders participating in the festivities. Great job!

Have a great weekend Sky Warriors and be safe.



Hickam Diamond Tips

Wear of the battle dress uniform or baseball cap

The hats should be worn squarely on the head with no hair protruding in front of the cap. When not being worn, the hat is stowed in either of the lower cargo pockets on the trousers. The baseball cap may be attached to either lower pants pocket button on the BDU trouser leg.

Source: AFI 36-2903
Questions?
Contact your First Sergeant

Action Line

The purpose of the Action Line is in its name. It's your direct link to me so we can work as a team to make Hickam a better community. It also allows you to recognize individuals who go above and beyond in their duties – and we all know there are plenty of those folks here.

All members of Team Hickam are welcome to use the Action Line; however, I urge you to give the normal chain of command the first chance at resolving problems or issues. It's only fair to give our commanders and managers the first opportunity to work issues under their responsibility. If you have done this and are still not satisfied, give my commander's Action Line a call. If you would like me to get back to you, leave your name and number, state your issue, tell me who you have talked to and why you were not satisfied with their response.

I'll work your issue and respond verbally or in writing. The Action Line number is 449-2996. Messages may also be sent by e-mail to 15aw.pal@hickam.af.mil.

CDC HOURS

Comment: This past Warrior Run my troop dropped her child off at the Child Development Center just around 0630. She then went to pick him up around 1645. The Child Development Center staff informed her of the rule which states “your child cannot be at the center for more than 10 hours per day.” She was also charged a fee for her child being there past the 10 hours. I

would like to know why the 10 hour rule at the Child Development Center cannot be waived for Warrior Run day. Since attendance is mandatory this becomes a concern for me because I am married to another military member and am also concerned for single parent Airman. The center could have a sign in sheet at the front desk for those parents required to participate and whose child will be there after the 10 hour maximum allowable time. Of course the parent should be required to be in pt gear/pt uniform when signing up, this would eliminate other parents who are not participating from taking advantage of the service. Thank you for your attention.

Response: Thank you for bringing this to our attention and for giving us the opportunity to clarify CDC procedures during the Warrior Run. Unfortunately the CDC staff was not aware that the “10 hour” rule had been waived for the Warrior Run and charged the additional fee for exceeding the maximum childcare hours. Please accept our apologies. Your account has been credited for the late charge. Should there be further questions or concerns please don't hesitate to call the program director at 449-9880.

SEX OFFENDERS WORKING ON BASE

Question: I am a resident of Hickam community housing and I've recently become concerned about possible sex offenders working on base. I am aware that the state of Hawaii has released a Web site

of registered sex offenders. I believe that I have seen a person who matches a description from the site near my home, working on new Hickam housing construction. I am worried that we have registered sex offenders working here on base in close proximity to where children and spouses reside. Perhaps residents of Hickam should be made aware that sex offenders work on base?

Response: Thank you for giving me an opportunity to comment on this. The safety and security of our military families is something I take very seriously. The Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center (HCJDC) is an agency of the State of Hawaii Department of the Attorney General. As part of their duties the Hawaii Criminal justice Data Center maintains a central database of registered sex offenders in the State of Hawaii. The following information about those persons is available to the public: name, prior names, aliases, photograph, residence address, personal vehicles(s) driven, street name of employment, college/university affiliation, and crime for which convicted. The HCJDC makes this information available to the public in a number of ways. Information on registered sex offenders in the State of Hawaii can be obtained for a fee at the HCJDC in downtown Honolulu or at designated police stations. This information is also available free of charge at the following website maintained by HCJDC: <http://sexoffenders.hawaii.gov/>. According to the HCJDC website, there are currently 5 registered sex offenders working or living near Hickam AFB. The information provid-

ed on the site is verified periodically by the state Attorney General's office. All members of the Hickam community are welcome to review the website or obtain the available information in one of the other ways listed above.

I first became aware of the website in March 05. With that knowledge we started the following process. Every month we review the website and confirm the information as it pertains to Hickam. With that information, we monitor registered sex offenders who work or live near Hickam AFB and make appropriate decisions in compliance with applicable laws. Any person who is not authorized to be on Hickam AFB or whose presence disrupts good order and discipline will be excluded from the base. Any decision to exclude an individual from Hickam AFB is made after considering the individual, the situation, and the need for good order, discipline, and security. When it comes to child care there's an even more stringent process that takes place. All individuals that perform child care services on Hickam AFB are required to submit to criminal history background checks in order to ensure children on Hickam AFB are protected.

Although our Security forces are the best, they can't be everywhere and it's important for us all continue to monitor our environment for suspicious behavior and activities. If you see anything suspicious here at Hickam, please don't hesitate to call our security forces at 448-6372 or 448-6373. Thanks again for asking the question.

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Deadline for copy is noon Thursday for the following Friday's issue. Copy must be typed, double-spaced 12-point type, 300 - 500 words in length, and e-mailed to hickam.kukini@hickam.af.mil.

Crisis Response lines

Hickam Family Support Center
449-0300
Life Skills Support Center
449-0175
Law Enforcement Desk
449-6373
Base Chaplain
449-1754
Military Family Abuse Shelter
533-7125
SARC Hotline
449-7272

Hickam Voices

How did it feel to take your kindergartner to school for the first day?



“I was excited because my kids are growing up.”
Staff Sgt. Michael Lingelbach
56th Air Communications Squadron



“I was excited for him, but when I walked away, I had a big lump in my throat.”
Nikki Taylor
Chief Master Sgt. Mark Taylor
502nd Air Operations Squadron



“I had mixed emotions. I was excited and a little sad at the same time.”
Jennifer Wiley
1st Lt. Aaron Wiley
Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs



“I was kind of sad. I'm not used to being away from her.”
Grace Difuntorum
Air National Guard



“I felt comfortable and was really ready.”
Cindy Pak
15th Comptroller Squadron



“Kind of a combination of happiness and apprehensiveness. I'm glad he's in school and growing up but at the same time apprehensive because he's away from home for the first time.”
Master Sgt. Gary Silvia
25th Air Support Operations Squadron

**Next week’s question:
Who is you earlier season
Superbowl pick and why?**

BEACHES, From A1

of community health. Hickam is also responsible for Bellows Air Force Station, but the state does monthly beach water testing there.

The engineers look for sulfates, pesticides, herbicides, ammonia, and more. Sergeant Watson has been here since April 2003 and in his time here he's had some advisory's at Bellows because of flooding from the stream and run off. Heavy rains cause wastewater overflows.

“You know the only thing I can say about our beaches to my knowledge is that we haven't had any problems as far as any outbreaks or any major health issues during the time that I have been here,” said Sergeant Watson.

There are good bacteria and there are bad bacteria and the Hawaii's Department of Health Clean Water Branch is on the watch for both. It is not

economically practical to test for all the bad bacteria. So the clean water branch looks for an indicator organism, indicator bacteria that has a good relationship with the bad bacteria.

“The indicator count does not tell you there is a cause for concern,” said Mike Okubo of the Clean Water Branch. “The indicator organism is just used as a flag; actually it tells us that this water sample had a lot of bad bacteria inside, so that area of the beach might be contaminated due to some kind of bad bacteria.”

The branch is specifically looking for the pathogens that are really going to harm the beach-going public. When Hawaii has a heavy rain the water goes into the ocean and the counts become elevated. According to Mr. Okubo there is no human fecal contamination, but the rain washing the mud down to

Armed up



Photo by Tech Sgt Andrew Leonhard
Ray Romero gets his hands on a M-16 at the 15th Security Forces Squadron Monday during a tour of the squadron. Mr. Romero, Clayton Wong (2nd from left) and Ken Hakoda are all local civic leaders who are honorary commanders of the 15th SFS. Maj. Paul Kasuda, 15th SFS commander, briefed them about the operation of various military assets and SFS personnel.

Being prepared for hurricane vital in Hawaii for survival

By Senior Airman Sarah Kinsman
Kukini Editor

With the recent hurricane exercise Team Hickam underwent there are some facts Hickam members should remember about hurricanes.

Hurricane season began June 1 and runs through Nov. 30.

As many people have noticed by watching the news, Florida has seen many hurricanes this year already. The difference between Florida and Hawaii is that bigger problems can be caused by hurricanes in Hawaii than in Florida.

“There is no safe haven to evacuate to since everyone lives on relatively small islands,” said Airman 1st Class Maggie Scruggs, 15th Civil Engineer Squadron Disaster Preparedness office. “The shoreline is fairly near to all areas so there's less reduction in power as hurricane winds travel over land and

heavy rains are quite likely since the storm is over the ocean at the same time it's over land.”

The Hickam Disaster Preparedness experts offer some advice for people to do in preparation for a hurricane.

People should have a home survival kit and emergency food and water supplies. The kit should include the following items:

- Portable, batter-powered radio
- Extra batteries
- Flashlights
- Candles
- Manual can opener and bottle opener
- Matches in a water-proof container or a lighter
- First aid kit and special medications
- Three to five-day supply of non-perishable foods, needing little or no cooking. Be sure to pack special dietary foods, baby food and formula if needed.
- Ice chest and ice or ice packs



U.S. Air Force photo
Facilities at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., received extensive damage following a direct hit on the base by Hurricane Katrina. The last big hurricane in Hawaii was Iniki in 1992 that directly hit Kauai.

- Water. As a minimum, have two quarts of water per person per day for drinking and more for cooking, washing and sanitation. Store as much clean water as possible in clean, non-breakable containers.
- Camp stove or canned heat stove and enough fuel for three to five days. A hibachi or charcoal grill and charcoal

- will also suffice.
 - Masking tape for windows and glass doors
 - Personal hygiene, sanitary supplies and diapers
 - Extra pet food
- For more information on hurricane preparedness see an article ran in the Kukini May 6 on B5 at <http://www2.hickam.af.mil/wingpa/news.html> or visit <http://www.hawaii-county.com/cd/hpg/main.html>.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Leonhard
Families and friends play at the Hickam Beach during a weekend. Base Bioenvironmental makes sure the water is always safe for swimming and beach goers.

the ocean is what introduces the indicating organism enterococci into the waters.

“Now because of that, we use a secondary indicator that is called Clostridium Perfringens. It is not recog-

nized by the EPA, but they do allow us to use it as a secondary indicator,” continued Mr. Okubo.

“That is why when we have a big rain event we have a brown water advisory to warn the people to stay out of that because there could be things other than bacteria – its not safe. Also, when you have storms like that, tiger sharks like to come in and forage near the shore. So stay out of the water,” he advised.

If concerned about bacteria in the water steer clear of the swash zone. The swash zone is the section where the waves roll up the beach, where most kids play.

The swash zones contain staph as well as the sand in the zone. Be sure to rinse children thoroughly before leaving the beach to avoid inadvertent contamination to cars and homes.

For information about environmental conditions of Hickam's beaches call 449-6814 and call 586-4309 for public beach conditions.

Hundreds hula for Guinness world record book

Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

Throughout the year, Honolulu is celebrating it's 100th Centennial with celebrations that commemorate the accomplishments of the city and county of Honolulu and its citizens. Aug. 20, an event was held that might make history.

Thousands of local residents, visitors and service members came to Waikiki beach to form the longest continuous hula line during the "Hula on the Beach" event. At 4:30 p.m., the dancers who lined the beach at Waikiki began dancing the hula as soon as Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann began singing, "I fell in love with Honolulu,"

According to Mona Wood, event coordinator, Honolulu Centennial, it is estimated that the number of hula dancers in attendance was between 1,200

and 2,000. Wood said she is hopeful that "Hula on the Beach" will prove to be a record-breaking event that will qualify the city for an entry in the "Guinness Book of World Records."

"During the event, I had great support from the military volunteers, media and communications. I think that made the event go much more smoothly," said the Honolulu native. "I love working with the military, because I could rely on them 100 percent for everything, and they would get the job done."

Wood said that she first worked with the military during the Snoop Dog show and was impressed with the turnout and the work they put forth.

"Since it was so pleasant working with them for the last event, I thought I'd just put the word out and see if any of them would be interested on



Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

Many different hula groups came together to take part in "Hula on the Beach" Aug. 20 on Waikiki Beach.

helping for the hula event," said Wood. "From the day I put the word out, I had service members volunteering. I had to cut them off at 75, but I know if I needed 500, I could have easily gotten 500."

Along with the military and

other volunteers, Wood said there were many other people willing to dedicate time and money to the event.

"I needed an overview shot of the line to send to Guinness, along with the number of people," said Wood.

"Makani Kai Helicopters were more than willing to fly overhead and even take some reporters up there, so I'm very thankful to them as well."

During the dance, hundreds of tourists, locals, and service members lined up along the shore. The line stretched across from the screen used for "Sunset on the Beach" to the Waikiki Sheraton hotel.

"I have been dancing hula for over ten years now," said Debbie Brownhill, personnel superintendent, Headquarters Hawaii, Air National Guard. "I originally just wanted to know what the words to the Hawaiian music meant. Every word has emotion, just like every move in the dance. If you learn the dance, it's a good way to learn about the music. I love Hawaiian music."

Brownhill said she wanted to be a part of Honolulu's Centennial Celebration and said that dancing for the event

was a once in a lifetime opportunity that she didn't want to miss.

"I think that's partially why everyone came," said the Kittery, Maine native. "I love Hawaii, and this is a small way to show that."

Wood said that she wouldn't know whether Honolulu's event would be accepted until someone from Guinness notifies her, but she said that she is very happy with the success of the event.

"With less than a month to prepare for the hula, I'm very impressed with how everything ended up," said Wood. "I feel that we really accomplished our goal, and people had fun."

"It was really chaotic because everything was coming down to a three-minute song. But everyone was telling me that they had a great time, so that makes me happy."

Simple precautions in keeping foods safe

Master Sgt. Vincent Paolucci
NCOIC Public Health Flight

Being stationed in Hawaii means fun in the sun and basking in the heat year-round. Unfortunately, the high temperatures also contribute to the numerous complaints from shoppers about the food they purchase. “My milk soured five days before the expiration date.” “My steak looks and smells bad.” “My ice cream is crystallized or gummy.” All of these complaints and many others can be avoided by becoming a smart grocery shopper. Using simple planning and good common sense will preserve the quality of the food and reduce the chances that anyone will become ill from food spoilage.

Time and temperature are the two primary factors in preventing food spoilage.

The smart shopper's challenge is to keep refrigerated and frozen foods in their appropriate temperature ranges from the time they begin shopping to their home refrigerators. Temperature controlled items are affected by every minute they are removed from the store's shelves. Here are a few common-sense tips to keep your foods in safe temperature ranges:

Plan your trip

Traffic can be unpredictable. Delays can really heat up the trunk of a car and begin the spoilage process. When the temperature outside is 90 degrees Fahrenheit, the temperature of your car trunk can reach 145 degrees Fahrenheit! Under those conditions, it takes less than 30 minutes to begin milk spoilage. Don't forget to take care of all



Photo by Christina Failma

Placing chilled items like milk and cheese in the cart last will help to keep them fresh for the ride home.

your other errands first before shopping for food - make grocery shopping the last thing on your “to-do list.”

Bring a cooler

Using the cooler will help prevent those chilled &

frozen (temperature sensitive) items from getting too warm on the trip home in your car. If you forget or find yourself with no cooler, put the temperature sensitive items in the passenger part of the car, out of the sun, and crank up the air

conditioning on the drive home.

Shop for chilled items last

The average person spends at least one hour shopping for groceries. Place the items that require no refrigeration in your cart first. The last items you want to place in your cart before heading to the check-out are the temperature sensitive foods. Many people think produce should be the last item placed in the cart but it is more important to place produce in an area that prevents them from becoming smashed and bruised. When you reach the cash register, place all those temperature sensitive items on the conveyor belt together so they get bagged together. This practice will help maintain

appropriate temperatures.

At home

Don't delay in putting chilled and frozen items away; make them your first priority. Every minute counts!

As you can see, it does not take a rocket scientist to be a smart grocery shopper. It does, however, take some simple planning. The commissary has the responsibility of providing good, wholesome, and safe foods. The shopper is responsible for ensuring that the foods purchased stay that way from the time they enter your cart until they are consumed. If these few simple suggestions are followed milk will last longer, meat will taste fresher and the customer will be happier with their purchases.

(Information courtesy of United States Department of Agriculture.)



Commission wraps up BRAC decisions

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission wrapped up four days of deliberations in final actions Aug. 26 and 27 by voting to turn Pope Air Force Base, N.C., into an Army airfield and recommending sweeping recommendations to revamp the Air National Guard and consolidate its operations.

The nine-person commission deviated significantly from the Pentagon's proposed plan to realign the Air Guard, passing a recommendation that would ensure every state with an existing Air Guard

unit would retain at least some Guard aircraft.

The decisions, made over the course of four days in Arlington, Va., will be reflected in a final report to be sent to President Bush by Sept. 8. If he concurs, the president will send the final list to Congress, which can accept or reject it in its entirety, but not change it.

The votes follow months of hearings nationwide regarding DOD's proposal to reshape the military infrastructure and eliminate excess capacity by closing 33 major bases and realigning 29 others.

Defense officials had estimated the plan would save about \$49 billion during the next 20 years, although that figure is expected to alter dramatically based on the BRAC decisions.

In major actions since Aug.

24, the BRAC commission voted to close these Air Force installations:

- Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, consolidating medical operations for the region at a new San Antonio Regional Medical Center at nearby Fort Sam Houston.
- Brooks City-Base, Texas.
- Onizuka Air Force Station, Calif.
- Galena Airport Forward Operation Location, Alaska.

The panel voted to keep open the following Air Force installations and schools:

- Ellsworth AFB, S.D.
- Cannon AFB, N.M., until at least 2009, and urged DOD to find a new mission for the base, if possible;

- Defense Language Institute, Monterey, Calif.
- Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, establishing a governing board to coordinate education programs between the school and the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

Other votes the panel made affecting the Air Force are:

- Consolidate operations at Fort Dix, McGuire AFB and Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst in New Jersey, creating a single joint base under a central commander at McGuire.
- Consolidate 26 Defense Finance and Accounting Service offices into five: in Cleveland; Limestone,

See AROUND THE AF, A9

A draining job



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jocelyn Rich

Tech. Sgt. Maaliq Love drains oil from an aircraft engine during an inspection at a forward-deployed location. Tanker engines require a complete inspection every 60 hours in flight. Sergeant Love is a KC-135 Stratotanker engine specialist with the 28th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron and is deployed from MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.

NOTES, From A1

stop by WBU's office in Hangar 2, rooms 116 and 119. Check out the Web site at www.wbu.edu/hi or call 422-6777.

Top 3 Association — The Hickam TOP 3 Association meets the first Wednesday of every month. Please join us at our next general membership meeting Sept. 7 at the Enlisted club.

Senior NCO Seminar and Induction Ceremony — The Hawaii Top 3 Association is sponsoring the 2005 Senior NCO Professional Development Seminar and Induction Ceremony. The seminar will be held in the HIANG Cafeteria, Bldg 3417 from Sept. 12 to 16. The seminar will culminate with a Senior NCO Induction Ceremony Sept. 16 at 6 p.m. at the Enlisted Club. Individuals may register by linking to https://wwwmil.hickam.af.mil/top3/sncopds/registration_interface/Results/editor/submission_form.asp. For more information contact unit First Sergeants.

PWOC Fall Kickoff — The Protestant Women of the Chapel will have their first meeting Sept. 7 from 8:45 - 11 a.m. at Chapel Center. This will be a bible study, prayer, and fellowship activity. For more info contact Chapel Center at 449-1754.

Volunteer Opportunities — Looking for individuals to help facilitate a teen tobacco cessation course on Hickam. One day training required; scheduled for Sept. 22 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 448-6170 or 448-6731 for more info.

HAWC looking for more volunteers — Looking for junior enlisted members (18-24 yrs old); smokers (includes all tobacco products), non-smokers and supervisors of each category to form a Tobacco Focus Group. Age requirement does not apply to supervisors. The session is scheduled for Oct. 4. Each session will be 90 minutes in duration. Respond for participation via email by Sept. 15 to carol.shaffer@hickam.af.mil. Call the HAWC 448-6170 or 448-6731.

Embry-Riddle's October term courses — Embry Riddle is offering 25 undergraduate courses during its Fall term (Oct. 3 to Dec. 12). Embry-Riddle is located in Room 117 of Hangar 2. Stop by to discuss educational goals with an Embry-Riddle representative.

AROUND THE AF, From A8

Maine, at the former Loring AFB; Rome, N.Y., at the former Griffiss AFB; at the Defense Supply Center-Columbus, Ohio; the Bean Federal Center in Indianapolis at the former Fort Benjamin Harrison; and in Alexandria, Va.

- Move the dental training school at Sheppard AFB, Kan., to Fort Sam Houston as part of a new consolidated medical center.
- Realign Randolph AFB, Texas, by moving its undergraduate navigator training to Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla.
- Block the move of active-component combat aircraft from Eielson AFB, Alaska.
- Stop the move of about 1,000 jobs to Hanscom

AFB, Mass. *(Story by Donna Miles, American Forces Press Service.)*

F/A-22 to begin follow-on operational evaluation

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. (AFPN) — The F/A-22 Raptor began follow-on operational test and evaluation Aug. 29.

Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center officials here will evaluate the Raptor in several areas, including air-to-ground capabilities and its suitability for deployment by C-17 Globemaster IIIs.

The center will test seven operationally representative Raptors at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.; White Sands Missile Range, N.M.; and the Utah Test and Training Range through late fall. An official report on the testing will follow 45 days after test completion.

New center helps promote records classification review

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — A government-wide effort to declassify documents that no longer need protecting took a big step forward recently with the official opening of the

Interagency Referral Center in College Park, Md.

The new center, at the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, is part of an initiative launched in 1995 to promote openness within the federal government and encourage the release of as many materials as possible to the American public. An executive order signed by then-President Clinton ordered the declassification of historically valuable information at least 25 years old no national security implications.

The order gave federal agencies until 2009 to review more than 80 million pages of classified records referred by other agencies to determine if they can be declassified, said Miriam Kleiman, a public

affairs specialist for the administration.

The center staff sponsored an open house Aug. 23 to officially open the new facility and showcase its increased capabilities.

JoAnne Collins, chief of the Air Force team at the center, said the new facility increased the resources available to specialists reviewing documents and promotes valuable collaboration between agency representatives.

“There’s better focus and less distraction, and the benefit of a lot of corporate knowledge that can be shared,” she said.

While the emphasis may be on declassification, Ms. Collins stressed that documents that affect national secu-

rity remain protected. This includes documents involving state-of-the-art technical developments, treaties, weapons of mass destruction and many security matters, she said.

“We’re not just arbitrarily making a decision (regarding classification),” Ms. Collins said, noting that the declassifiers follow strict guidelines and a system of checks and balances to ensure material that demands classification is protected.

“There’s careful review and a lot of collaboration with our counterparts,” she said. “And the bottom line is that our goal is to protect the national security.”

(Story by Donna Miles, American Forces Press Service)

OFFICER,

From A1

landed and was immediately destroyed by enemy fire. As Capt. Blake recalled, “We put some of them down at Bellows, and one of them at Kahuku Golf Course. I don't remember where all of them landed, but we lost only one.”

Fate led Capt. Blake to participate in the end of the Pacific War as well. By 1945, he had been promoted to Colonel and was in command of the Army Airways Communications System in the Pacific. Once Japan agreed to an unconditional surrender, the need arose to prepare the way for American forces to land in Japan. The 68th Army Airways Communications System Group, 7th AACS Wing, received orders to fly into Atsugi Airfield near Tokyo and set up the necessary communications equipment. Colonel Blake lead a team of communications specialists and a flight of 24 C-47 “Skytrains” to Atsugi on August 28, 1945, carrying all the equipment necessary to provide navigational aid, point-to-point communications, air-to-ground communications, weather data, and air traffic control. In order to carry as much equipment as possible, the load was lightened by carrying only enough fuel for a one-way flight to Atsugi.

Although Japan's officials had agreed to the unconditional surrender, Colonel Blake and his team did not know whether some in the Japanese military might still be hostile. Upon their approach to Atsugi, the sight of hundreds of Japanese Navy guards surrounding the airstrip made them nervous. Nevertheless, Blake was met by courteous English-speaking military personnel, and the AACS men lost no time in getting the airfield fully operational. By Aug. 29, the “Atsugi Airdrome” control tower was ready. The official occupation of Japan began the next day when C-54 “Skymasters” carrying 11th Airborne Division troops landed at Atsugi. By mid-afternoon, Blake's crew had directed over 340 takeoffs and landings, at the rate of one every two minutes. On Aug. 30, Atsugi airfield was one of the busiest airports in the world.

From the attack on Oahu to the conclusion of Japan’s ill-fated military adventure, Lt. Gen. Gordon Blake's Air Force career kept him in the front row. Lt. Gen. Blake passed away in 1997. See his official Air Force biography at: <http://www.af.mil/bios/bio.asp?bioID=4706>.

BELLOWS, From A1

strong for my husband,” Mrs. Espensen shared her thoughts on the upcoming deployment, “That is the biggest thing for any wife just to be strong for them. They should know that you have everything taken care of at home.”

This couple intends to say farewell in a grand fashion and reunite in much the same way. They have planned a trip to Europe for a whole month when Senior Airman Espensen returns.

They both agreed it is important to have something to plan together and look forward to his homecoming. In Europe they will celebrate their first year anniversary missed because of the deployment.



Photo by Kirsten Tacker

Captain David Talafuse, Bellows Air Force Station commander, hands Senior Airman Jeffrey Espensen, a flag to take with him on a deployment. Susan Espensen looks on.

Renee Dvorak's husband very experienced in deployments. Mrs. Dvorak and her husband have missed 11

anniversaries over their 21 years together.

She decided to use her prior experience to help the others. She talked with Captain Talafuse to start the Readiness Assistance Volunteer program that used to be called Key Spouse.

“I think the basic idea,when I was speaking to Captain Talafuse, is to make sure that for the people who this is a new deployment feel the same security they felt when their spouses were here,” said Mrs. Dvorak. “Every day is not going to be easy and every day is not going to be hard either. I just think that people need to know that this does not have to be a sad time, you

know especially in times like this, we need to instill our pride in these guys.”

That was the last thing Mrs. Dvorak told her spouse before he deployed, how proud she was of him for doing this.

Mrs. Dvorak feels, “It takes a special group of people to go out and do this, but it also takes a special group of people to stay behind and make sure things go well.

In creating the RAV her goal is to help the spouses understand that they play just as big a part in all of this with their deploying partner. She wants them to know that they are just as important.

The farewell festivities

concluded with Captain Talafuse sharing a few final words to his unit.

“You only have one chance to make history, you have a soft spot in my heart. I've done this a few times. I know what it takes, I know how hard it is, I know the sacrifices and that is why I can tell you we will anxiously wait for your return,” continued Captain Talafuse.

“We will take care of your loved ones. Return, return with honor, we are going to miss you guys. Good luck.”

Call Renee Dvorak at 259-5112 for more information on the Readiness Assistance Volunteer group.



Arts and crafts center

Every Thursday evening, the arts and crafts sales store is offering a special craft activity from 6 to 8 p.m. Please stop in to sign up for one of your favorites. Call the Arts and Crafts Center at 448-1568 ext. 105 for more information.

Teen driver's education instruction

The Community Center's Teen Driver's Education Instruction is a six-week class followed by six hours of behind the wheel instruction. The cost is \$365 for the complete class. Call the Community Center at 449-3354 to sign-up to attend the Oct. 15 session.

Christmas in September

Create a new family ornament for your Christmas tree or home. Christmas ornaments under the instruction of Lacey, the newest addition to the Community instructional staff. The class is available to children with a parent and all others 12 years old and up. Pre-registration is required. Christmas kits are \$5. Call the Community Center at 449-3354 for more information.

Movies under the moonlight

Sunday at 7:30 p.m., or when darkness permits, enjoy a free outdoor movie at Hickam Harbor. Bring your chairs and blankets for this family movie. Come on out and enjoy the movie "The Goonies," about a group of kids who embark on a wild adventure after finding a pirate treasure map. For more

details call Outdoor Recreation at 449-5215.

Artist/Craftsman contest

Now is the time to start working on your artist/craftsman contest entries for 2005. There are four categories this year: fine arts, industrial arts, textile arts and picture arts. Entries are accepted from all youth and adults starting Sept. 9. For details, call the Arts and Crafts Center at 449-1568.

Airmen members appreciation night

Every Tuesday night, from 6 to 8 p.m., J.R. Rockers wants to thank their members by serving ranch steak, fried shrimp, French fries, corn cobbette and a corn muffin for \$9.95 (7.95 E-1 to E-3). This is a members only event. Become a member today. Call 449-1292 for more information.

Mamala Bay Labor day weekend celebration

The award winning pro shop at Mamala Bay Golf Course is offering 10 percent off all merchandise in stock until Sunday. Call 449-2047 for more information.



More Mamala Bay Labor day weekend celebration

Play in our 36-hole 2-person best ball tournament on Saturday and Monday September. The tournament will kick off the first round of

the day from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. Entry fee is \$30 per team plus green fees. For more information call 449-2525

Eat barbeque Mongolian style

Mongolian barbeque is served Thursdays from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on the Officers Club lanai. The menu consists of approximately 20 vegetables, five meats and a variety of oils and spices for seasoning. Price is 60 cents per ounce with a \$1 off members first discount. Call 448-4608 for details.

Torch Club

Torch clubs are chartered small-group leadership and service clubs for boys and girls in middle school focusing on character development. A Torch Club is a powerful vehicle through which club staff can help meet the special needs of younger adolescents at a critical stage in their devel-

opment. Torch Club members learn to elect officers and work together to plan and implement activities in four areas: service to club and community, education, health and fitness and social recreation. Perspective members may join at any time throughout the year. For more information on the Torch Club program contact Mr. Kubo at 449-2233

Wet Hens basic sailing course

Interested in sailing? Then get your feet wet with the Wet Hens! Sign up for the Wet Hens sailing course today! The ten-week course starts Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Cost is \$80 per person which includes sailing instruction on a 14-foot Catalina, instruction materials and more. Sign up early because class size is limited!

For more information call Robin Cook at 423-0511 or Gina Purvis at 674-2677.